

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed an Office Action dated July 12, 2006 for the present application. By way of response, Applicants have amended claim 42, 43, 47, 51, 52, and 56. No new matter has been added. Claims 42-59 are pending. Applicants submit that the pending claims are supported by the specification.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 42 and 51 have been amended to recite "dissolving a carbonate cleaning composition in water, the carbonate cleaning composition comprising about 10 to 80 wt% of Na₂CO₃, an effective sequestering amount of an organic phosphonate hardness sequestering agent, wherein the carbonate cleaning composition comprises non-hydrated sodium carbonate, and a binding agent comprising hydrated sodium carbonate, and organic phosphate". This amendment is supported at least by original claim 13 and at page 2, lines 17-20 of the specification as originally filed.

Independent claims 42 and 51 have also been amended to recite "cleaning the medical cart or cage with the dissolved carbonate cleaning composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature". This amendment is supported at least by original claim 13 and at page 2, lines 13-14 of the specification as originally filed.

Independent claims 42 and 51 have been further amended to recite "dissolving a disinfecting antimicrobial composition in water". This amendment is supported at least by original claim 6 and at page 3, lines 18-19 of the specification as originally filed.

Independent claims 42 and 51 have been additionally amended to recite "disinfecting the rinsed medical cart or cage with the dissolved disinfecting antimicrobial composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature". This amendment is supported at least by original claim 6 and at page 3, lines 19-20, page 3 line 30 through page 4 line 1, of the specification as originally filed.

Claims 43, 47, 52, and 56 have also been amended to more clearly recite the solid rinse composition.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments. For the reasons given below, Applicants submit that the amended claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 52-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Lentsch et al.* (US Patent No. 5,880,088). Claims 42-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Schulz et al.* (US Patent No. 5,698,513). Claims 42, 47, 51, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over *Richter et al.* (US Patent No. 5,234,719). Claims 42, 47, 51, and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Bull* (US Patent No. 5,310,549). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Lentsch et al., *Schulz et al.*, *Richter et al.*, and *Bull*, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest a method of cleaning a medical cart or cage including (1) dissolving a carbonate cleaning composition in water, (2) cleaning the medical cart or cage with the dissolved carbonate cleaning composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature, (3) dissolving a solid rinse composition in water, (4) rinsing the cleaned medical cart or cage with the dissolved rinse composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature, (5) dissolving a disinfecting antimicrobial composition in water, (6) disinfecting the rinsed medical cart or cage with the dissolved disinfecting antimicrobial composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature, and (7) drying the disinfected medical cart or cage in a drying station as recited by independent claim 42.

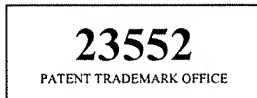
Lentsch et al., *Schulz et al.*, *Richter et al.*, and *Bull*, alone or in combination, also do not disclose or suggest a method of cleaning a medical device or instrument including (1) dissolving a carbonate cleaning composition in water, (2) cleaning the medical device or instrument with the dissolved carbonate cleaning composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature, (3) dissolving a solid rinse composition in water, (4) rinsing the cleaned medical device or instrument with the dissolved rinse composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature, (5) dissolving a disinfecting antimicrobial composition in water, and (6) disinfecting the rinsed medical device or instrument with the dissolved disinfecting antimicrobial

composition at a temperature at or above ambient temperature, as recited by independent claim 51.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing differences, *Lentsch et al.*, *Schulz et al.*, *Richter et al.*, and *Bull*, alone or in combination, fail to render the presently claimed invention obvious. Withdrawal of these rejections is requested.

Conclusion

In summary, Applicant submits that each of claims 42-59 is in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite prosecution of this patent.



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MTS:SMM

Respectfully submitted,

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